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DALLAS/FORT WORTH  
CHAPTER  
MPI  
MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MPI DALLAS/FORT WORTH CHAPTER  
**current**  
MAGAZINE

MEMBERSHIP | EDUCATION / EVENTS | LEADERSHIP | MARKETPLACE | CAREER RESOURCES

**MAY 2014**

MPI D/FW educates and prepares its members for their changing roles in the greater business world. The association validates relevant knowledge and skills while simultaneously demonstrating a commitment to meeting excellence. Record five-time winner of "Chapter of the Year"



**Sponsorships and Advertising space for your business here. Call us for pricing.**

**CALENDAR**

**MAY EVENTS - INDUSTRY EVENT**

PCMA Gulf States Annual Mix-n-Bowl

**WHAT'S NEW**

**HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE**

**EDUCATION**

**TEST YOUR CMP KNOWLEDGE**



**Date:** May 14, 2014

**Time:** 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Location:** Bowlmoor

**Address:** 3805 Beltline Road, Addison

[more information](#)

**MAY EVENTS**

Dear Members- We will not hold a May meeting so that you can attend the many exciting events coming in June

**June Networking Event**

**Date:** June 3, 2014

**Time:** 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

**Location:** iFLY

**Address:** 8380 SH 121, Frisco, TX 75034



[More Info](#)

Heard It Through  
The Grapevine  
Sponsored By  
**GRAPEVINE TEXAS**  
AGED TO PERFECTION

Members on the Move



O.D. O'Donnell - Celebrates his 85th Birthday in May!



Leah Belascoe has joined the Newsletter Team as our 'roving reporter for the Grapevine. Leah has been involved in the meetings industry and knows what is going on... If you know about anyone with a job change, promotion, special anniversary or milestones, awards, etc contact her at 214-441-3309.

Adrienne Bommarito joined The Event Lounge as National Account Managers/Sensational Experience Consultant; she was formerly with ES Events.

Have a new job, promotion, milestone event? Email your information to: [vpcommunications@mpidfw.org](mailto:vpcommunications@mpidfw.org)



One advantage to using an application service provider (ASP), is the common interface and ease of training. Planners and clients already have the necessary tools sitting on their desks –a computer and web browser. It is a familiar interface that is cross-platform – in other words:

- a. Catering and Front Desk can both use it
- b. BEOs and ESGs can both use it
- c. The data is stored on the internal network
- d. PCs, Macs and large-enterprise networks can all use it

*Answer is Below*

**MARCH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

The March program held at the recently renovated Crowne Plaza by the Galleria offered a full day of education. Courtesy of the sponsor, Business Canada Events, Sandi Galloway worked with the committee and her vision to offer a day of practical education for our members offering complimentary registration to all that attended.

Guest speaker was industry technology expert, James Spellos from MeetingU. Two workshops were held prior to and following the lunch program. The morning included an Excel workshop where attendees had hands on practical experience using Excel as a tool for all aspects of meeting planning.

The lunch program included an interactive program that included audience response questions using Polleverywhere.com. focused on technology trends and the future is customized content, i.e.,

**New APPS:**

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## June Volunteer Appreciation Event

**Date:** June 17, 2014  
**Time:** 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
**Location:** 3015 at Trinity Groves  
**Address:** 3015 Gulden Lane, Dallas, TX 75034



**More Information Coming Soon**

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## June Annual Awards of Excellence Gala

**Date:** June 26, 2014  
**Time:** 6:00pm - 10:00 pm  
**Location:** Perot Museum of Nature and Science  
**Address:** 2201 N Field Street, Dallas, TX



**More Information Coming Soon**



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

APRIL 2014

Vince Bogard, Starwood Hotels & Resorts  
Erin Bret, Student Professionals  
Kristie Estrada, Meeting Professionals

International  
Megan Nicole Ford, The Event Lounge  
Amy Freeman, Argon Medical Devices, Inc.  
Paul A Guerrero  
Jacqueline Kim CMP, ExxonMobil  
Joe Lopez, Holiday Inn and Suites Denton  
Michael Nielson, RealPage, Inc.  
Robert C Parkerson, RPI  
Tara Robinson, Monte Carlo Resort & Casino. . . .

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## Chapter Members, Let your Voice be Heard!

### Should we?

- Hold an Annual Education Conference?
- Change the format of monthly chapter meetings? Have more networking events?
- Offer Senior Planner and Supplier Education? Offer new benefits?

### What changes would you like to see?

This year has been one of anticipation, change and reinvention. We are all learning to evolve in order to succeed in this economy. In order to help our Chapter evolve and meet the demands of our members and our industry, we would like to ask you to join us in participating in an online survey which will help our leadership team to determine our Chapter's needs the DFW Needs Assessment Survey.

**Another survey you ask?** Yes, as meeting professionals we know only too well the need for feedback. This is your opportunity to tell us what you really want from your chapter. It's in-depth and will give us the information we need to make changes because we need to know what you find the most valuable as a member; and what you don't. We want to hear the good, the bad and even

Google

[Translate.google.com](http://Translate.google.com)

The afternoon concluded with a Google-licious workshop where attendees each had the chance to wear and use the new Google glasses. The attendees learned about all of the features Google offers including translation, math, special filters for searching, and new communication tools.



**A special thank you to the committee:**

**Program Chair:** Bitsy Burns, CMP  
**Vice Chair:** Peg Wolschon, CMP  
**Sandi Galloway, CPECP**



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## GLOBAL EVENTS



**Date:** August 2-5, 2014

**Time:**

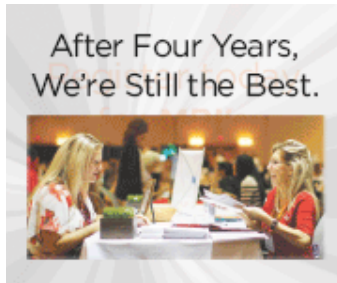
**Location:** Minneapolis, MN

**Speaker:** Various

[more information](#)

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## WEC HOSTED BUYER PROGRAM



**Date:** August 2-5, 2014

**Time:**

**Location:** Minneapolis, MN

**Speaker:** N/A

[more information](#)

**CMP/CMM Breakfast coming back**

**Save the Date: June 13**

Another long standing tradition in the chapter has been honoring those members who have earned the coveted

the ugly!

**The purpose is twofold.**

**First**, by gathering data through this needs assessment, we can best determine how to do the following:

- Report the data to the members
- Move the Chapter forward in the next three to five years by basing our goals on hard data from you – our members
- Operate the Chapter as a business
- Educate the Board on the demographics of Chapter Members to create programming to meet your needs
- Determine what is necessary to drive the Chapter's role in the community to be the primary information source for meeting professionals in the area.

**Second**, once the data is accumulated, the current Board of Directors and incoming Board will:

- Create an action plan based upon the responses
- Use the data to analyze our overall business plan to ensure it is consistent with member needs and wants, as well as incorporating the Chapter mission and goals.

***Ideally, we'd love to have at least 25% response; However, by striving for a 75-80% participation level, the majority of voices will be heard and, as a result, have a direct hand in the future direction of the MPI D/FW Chapter.***

We know your time is valuable but so is your input. If you value your membership or if you don't we need to hear your voice to know why. As an incentive for everyone who completes the survey you will be entered into a raffle to win your choice of:

**One of 2: \$100.00 American Express gift card**  
**Or**  
**4 free meeting registrations of your choice of regular chapter events\***

**We need your participation to accomplish this!**

With your input, we can elevate our Chapter programs and services and offer new tools to benefit each of our members.

**OD O'Donnell**  
**Marina O'Connor**  
**Cindy Nuanes**



March Program Sponsor, Sandi Galloway with Business Canada Events and her special guests



March Home Town Hero - Lamarque Polvado , CareStarter, Rob Keating and President Alison Kieckhafer, CMP



Jayna and Jim Monroe with JM Designs provided

designations of CMP and CMM. This year the annual invitation only CMP/CMM Breakfast will be held n June 13th. It will also present the highest leadership award to an outstanding meeting professional. The award will be presented at Annual CMP/CMM Annual Recognition Event Breakfast on Friday, June 13, 2014 (more details to follow soon!)

"The Colleen Rickenbacher Leadership Award" Nominating Committee (consisting of past recipients) seeks your valuable input in this process and is asking all CMPs and CMMs to submit a nomination for this esteemed award. Three finalists will be determined based on your nominations and the 2014 award recipient will be selected by the Award Nominating Committee. Below is a list of past recipients. Please note the event was not held from 2010 until this year.

Year - Past Recipients

2009 Hattie Hill, CMM

2008 Jim Monroe, CMP, CSEP

2007 Steven G. Foster, CMP

2006 Betty Garrett, CMP

2005 Dana Rhoden, CMP, CMM

2004 Sally Goldesberry, CMP, CMM

2003 Bill Boyd, CMP, CMM, CITE

2002 Mary Lynn Novelli, CMP

2001 Phyllis Firebaugh, CMP

2000 Pat McCain, CMP

1999 Colleen Rickenbacher, CMP, CSEP, CPC



Steven G. Foster, CMP  
2014 Awards Committee  
Chair

Your answers are completely anonymous; we only require your contact information for the prize drawing only, they are not connected in the survey.



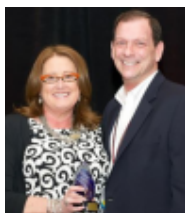
[Click here to take the survey](#)

. \* regular chapter meetings not to exceed \$50 per event and must be redeemed within one year

## SPIRIT AWARD

### Spirit Award, March 2014

Congratulations to: Mark Stinson Meehan of the membership Committee for his tireless work in Student Member Activities



Spirit Award, April 2014



April Spirit Award presented to Steven Foster, CMP and Tony Cummins, CMP, CMM for their work with the awards committee.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE: A CHAPTER TRADITION

clientuploads/2014-2015 BOD/Tony Cummins.jpg

Tony Cummins, CMP, CMM, THE MEETING DEPARTMENT

the centerpieces

Sponsored by Business Events Canada



[Click here to view more photos](#)

## APRIL CHAPTER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our April 2014 Chapter Program "Overcoming Destination Misperception©" - Featuring Eli Gorin, CMP/CMM as our speaker held at the amazing venue - "The Sixth Floor Museum" and thanks to our sponsor for this event - Visit Lubbock.



Hometown Heroes Andrea (Andy) Allen and Jonnie England for their work with rescuing animals in North Texas and DFW Rescue Me.



Our Sponsors from Lubbock- They provided special gifts of wine baskets at each table. Lubbock is home to a number of award winning Texas wines.

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

With the Annual MPI D/FW Chapter Awards coming soon we wanted to spotlight one of the winners from 2013.



Bitsy Burns, CMP (photo) Planner & Mentor of the Year

Bitsy Burns, CMP was named the MPI D/FW Chapter 2013 Planner and Mentor of the Year. The 2014 awards will be presented in June and we thought it would be an ideal time to get to know our winner. We asked her a few questions so you can get to know her better.

How long have you been in the meetings industry?  
25 years

What was your first job in this industry?  
Planning, preparing and managing 25 meetings in 25 different cities per month for a Financial Services Corporation.

Tell us about your job?

It's a great job! I love the work I do and I do the work I love! As the Director of Operations for the Southwest Veterinary Symposium I am responsible to oversee the operations for the Symposium, annual meeting with over 4,500 medical professionals veterinary science and exhibitors from a five-state region. Negotiating contracts, managing food and beverage, audio visual, hotels, registration, staffing, travel, operational contractors with the convention, overseeing social events, implementing continuing education and exhibits into the meeting, onsite management of the symposium as well as the logistics for the Managing Board of Directors and CE Program Committee meetings are included in these operations.

What is your favorite part of your job?  
The final act. Onsite Management of the symposium or meeting or event. I like to watch the results of all the

For as long as I have been member of MPI D/FW, now more than 20 years, our Chapter has had a long-standing tradition of recognizing our volunteer members who unselfishly give their time and talents to the Chapter. The Chapter Leadership has always made this a high priority, and that commitment is reflected in time, work and effort that goes into nominations and selection of members who are recognized at our annual Awards of Excellence event in June of each year.

We consider these award finalists to be the best of the best in each category; people at all levels with the Chapter who have shown exemplary leadership and worked diligently to make our Chapter the best it can be year-in and year-out. These award categories include Planner of the Year, Supplier of the Year, the Rising Star award, Volunteer of the Year, Committee and Chapter Event of the Year and other select awards given annually or periodically.

Potential award recipients are nominated by Chapter members at large each year in April/May. Our online nominations process is open now through May 9 and can found on the Chapter website at [mpidfw.org](http://mpidfw.org). Once the nominations are complete, the Awards Nominating Committee which is made up of a mix of Chapter Leaders and other volunteer members determine the finalists and category winners through a process of scoring, evaluation and voting.

Hope to see on June 26 at our annual celebration!

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**Bitsy Burns, CMP (photo) Planner & Mentor of the Year - Continued Article from Previous Column**

What is your favorite color?  
Purple

Favorite vacation spot?  
Myrtle Beach, SC; Lake Louise, Canada

Favorite food?  
Mexican

Favorite book?  
The Bible

Favorite saying?



Thank you to our committee:  
Chairperson: Chris Roach  
Vice chair: Tiffany Smith

To see the complete photo gallery from the program, [click here](#)

### **CMP Quiz Answer:**

d. PCs, Macs and large-enterprise networks can all use it – CIC 8th pg. 236

### **Highlights of Award Winners from last year**

#### **Planner of the Year**

Bitsy Burns, CMP  
Southwest Veterinary Symposium

#### **Supplier of the Year**

Jennifer Parker, CWC  
Zoës Kitchen

#### **Mentor of the Year**

Bitsy Burns, CMP  
Southwest Veterinary Symposium

#### **Rising Star Award**

Shanika Davis  
Dallas County District Attorney's Office

#### **Chapter Event of the Year**

June 2012 Annual Awards of Excellence

#### **Volunteer of the Year**

Kim Kurk  
Kim Kurk Events



organization, preparation and implementation come together.

Why did you join MPI?

A MPI member reached out and asked me. She was very enthusiastic, seemed very interested in who I was, took time in getting to know me and was genuine.

Tell us about your most memorable experience being part of MPI?

That would be last year when I was the recipient of two awards of excellence. I so appreciate the honor of being selected for not one but two awards - Planner of the Year and also the Mentor of the Year.

I was beyond excited to be standing on that stage. I am truly thankful for the support and encouragement and the trusting of my professional qualities, abilities and experience. It means a lot to me because it recognizes more than twenty years of hard work that I've invested in the meetings industry. I would not be where I am today in my career if it weren't for the opportunities to be involved with MPI D/FW Chapter

What do you do when not at work?

Take it easy. I enjoy walking and outdoor activities.

What do you do outside of MPI and your work?

I enjoy working with the Travel, Exhibition Meeting Management (TEMM) Club at Richland College. I also volunteer at church events and activities; I also serve on the Fort Worth Destination and TEMM Advisory Boards.

**Continued in next column**

Love conquers all.

Favorite gadget or technology?

i Phone

Tell us about something most people don't know about you?

Being an animal lover all my life, when I was a kid, I kissed a turtle. The turtle bit my lip and wouldn't let go. When my Mother saw the turtle hanging from my lip, she panicked and called my Dad who was the only one who knew how to get the turtle to let go. Squeeze his neck. Yikes! Well, that did it, and I ended up with stitches on my mouth. The turtle was fine.

What advice do you have for a new meeting planner? Listen carefully before you act.

Your final words of wisdom?

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths straight." Prov. 3:5-6

**Chapter Committee of the Year**

CMP Program Committee

**Volunteer of the Year**

Shanika Davis

Dallas County District Attorney's Office

**Strategic Partner of Excellence Award**

Wynne Motorcoaches

**Program of the Year**

July 2012 Leadership and Building a Team

**Venue of the Year**

Hyatt Regency Dallas

**MPI Past Presidents and Board Members Honor**

**O.D. O'Donnell for his contributions to the chapter and his 85th birthday.**



O. D. O'Donnell and Alison Kieckhafer, CMP



Patty Phelps and Gregory Pynes, MPA

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**Sponsorships and Advertising space for your business here. Call us for pricing.**

**Sponsorships and Advertising space for your business here. Call us for pricing.**

## BUY MPI D/FW

### SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

April Chapter Meeting Sponsor



Contact Visit Lubbock TODAY!

[more information](#)

### BE A SPONSOR

An exciting new opportunity is now available. The E-Newsletter Sponsorship and advertising banners will offer members a way to expand your brand to over 700 members.

[more information](#)

### SUPPLIERS

IDEA ON THE MONTH: Consider buying a table at the Chapter Meeting and inviting your planner guests to accompany you.

Thank you to our partner **Jim Woods Photography**

## GET CONNECTED

### Come Fly with MPI D/FW!

Bring your “wings” and join your fellow members and guests as Shelly Jackson and her team of iFLY welcome you to our exciting June Networking Event:

When: Tuesday June 3rd, 2014

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Where: 8380 S.H 121, Frisco, TX 75034



Featuring:

iFLY Dallas tours and behind the scenes look at how iFLY Dallas works!

Catering by Blue Mesa

Raffle prize of 2 Spread Your Wings packages (value of \$109.95!)

Return flight discount of 25% on our Earn Your Wings Package for each attendee

Complimentary Parking

[Click here for more information](#)

### Highlights from Richland College TEMM Luncheon

Take a look at the industry partnering together to promote the education programs at Richland

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



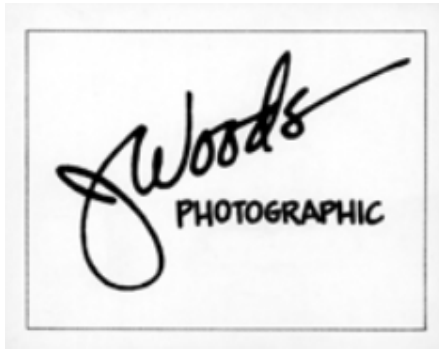
Volunteers are the lifeblood of the MPI D/FW Chapter and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member that has given their time and talents to the Chapter this term. Your efforts, ideas, creativity and dedication have impacted the Chapter and your fellow members in invaluable ways.

I was speaking to a Chapter volunteer a few days back and was delighted to hear that her involvement in MPI has been life and career changing for her. She indicated that she has made countless friends and contacts, all while growing her career skills, building her portfolio and developing her leadership abilities. She also told me that exploring various areas of the industry through her volunteerism inspired her to start her own company – something she may not have considered before her involvement with MPI. She is opening a third party planning company specializing in charity fundraising events. This is something that has always been her dream and passion but she isn't sure she would have ever done it without the growth and motivation she gained from MPI.

Gandhi was quoted as saying that “the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” If you are already engaged as a volunteer with the Chapter, thank you for all you are doing to serve your fellow members. If you have yet to get involved, I invite you to do so now. I guarantee you that you will be overwhelmed by the return on your investment of time and effort!

### BOARD NOTES





CLICK IMAGE TO VISIT HIS WEBSITE

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Want to Advertise in the E-Newsletter? Send a customized email with your message to our members? Contact us to advertise, [click here](#)

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#### **ABOUT MPI D/FW**

##### **MPI D/FW Chapter 2013-2014 Board of Directors**

Alison Kieckhafer, CMP - President  
Amanda Wells, CMP/CTA - President Elect  
Lauren Dunnaway, CTA - Immediate Past President  
Jennifer Parker, CWC - VP Finance & Sponsorship  
Dana Rhoden, CMP/CMM - VP Communications  
Paula Bruton, CMP - VP Education & Events  
Sherry DeLaGarza, CMP/CMM - VP Leadership  
Pam Madewell - VP Membership  
Tammy Williams - Director Finance & Sponsorship  
Sean Ewell - Director Communications  
Nicole Stokes - Director Education  
Charlotte Gannon - Director Special Events  
Gail Grogan, CMP/CMM - Director Leadership  
Erin Lucia - Director Membership

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*Newsletter Editor:* Dana Rhoden, CMP, CMM

College and their TEMM Luncheon fundraiser. MPI Chapter member, Bitsy Burns, CMP served as chairperson and Tamara Hugston, CMP, CMM was the guest speaker with David Dubois, CAE (IAEE)



[Click here to see the photos](#)

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#### **CAREER CENTER**

Great News! The Career and Resources page on the MPIDW.Org website has changed. You can now directly access the MPI International Job Board from here.. Looking for a job, looking for new team members? Go to our Career Center.

[more information](#)

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Engage with our members in social media.

Join us in LindedIn and and "like us" on Facebook



- 2014-2015 Board of Directors Slate Announced
  - President- Amanda Wells, CMP
  - President-Elect- Tony Cummins, CMP/CMM
  - Immediate Past President- Alison Kieckhafer, CMP
  - VP Finance- Melissa Logar, CMP
  - VP Communications- Sean Ewell
  - VP Leadership- Sherry Delagarza, CMP/CMM
  - VP Membership- Erin Lucia
  - VP Education & Events- LaDenna Franks, CMP
  - Director Finance- Tammy Williams
  - Director Communications- Patrick Dolan
  - Director Leadership- Gail Grogan, CMP/CMM
  - Director Membership- Paige Mejia
  - Director Education- Liana Graham, CMP
  - Director Special Events- Alisa Caldwell, CMP
- .....

#### **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

##### **Did You Know?**



That we offer awards for Perfect Attendance to Chapter Meetings?

The current leaders are:  
Trent Culler  
Alison Kieckhafter, CMP  
Erin Lucia  
Peggy Naas  
O.D. O'Donnell

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